

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CCO-00 SSO-00 SY-05 USSS-00

A-01 OPR-02 OMB-01 HA-05 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NEA-10 MCT-01 CU-06 CA-01

SCS-06 /104 W

-----032676 161233Z /16

R 152348Z FEB 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9594

UNCLAS USUN 0541

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: BETAR GROUP DEMONSTRATION AT USUN

1. SUMMARY: APPROXIMATELY A DOZEN MEMBERS OF BETAR (BRIT TRUMPELDOR BETAR OF AMERICA, INC.) ATTEMPTED TO HOLD A DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE U.S. MISSION TODAY. WHEN THEY REFUSED TO MOVE THEIR DEMONSTRATION INTO THE POLICE-DESIGNATED AREA AT THE NORTH SIDE OF 45TH STREET AND ATTEMPTED TO BURN A SYMPOLIC MODEL OF F-15 AND F-5 BOMBERS, A SCUFFLE BROKE OUT. FIVE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WERE ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH DISORDERLY CONDUCT AND RESISTING ARREST. AMBASSADOR LEONARD MET WITH FOUR OF THE DEMONSTRATORS IN THE MISSION.

2. AT APPROXIMATELY 1 P.M. TODAY, A DOZEN MEMBERS OF BETAR ATTEMPTED TO HOLD A SIT-DOWN DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE U.S. MISSION AND BURN A SYMBOLIC MODEL OF THE F-15 AND F-5 BOMBERS TO PROTEST PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSED SALE OF THESE BOMBERS TO EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA. ACCORDING TO OUR SECURITY, THE N.Y. POLICE OFFICERS ASKED THE GROUP TO MOVE THEIR DEMONSTRATION TO THE NORTH SIDE OF 45TH STREET--THE PLACE THAT IS DESIGNATED FOR

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DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE U.S. MISSION. THE GROUP REFUSED TO MOVE AND SAT DOWN IN A CIRCLE IN FRONT OF THE U.S. MISSION.

3. THE POLICE ATTEMPTED TO MOVE THE DEMONSTRATORS, WHICH RESULTED IN A SCUFFLE. TO PREVENT ANY SERIOUS VIOLENCE, VALERIE BRADLEY, DEPUTY COUNSELOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, WENT

DOWN AND ASKED THAT A FOUR MEMBER DELEGATION OF THE DEMONSTRATORS COME INSIDE THE MISSION TO AIR THEIR COMPLAINTS WITH A MISSION REPRESENTATIVE. BY THAT TIME THE POLICE HAD BEGUN TO ARREST THE SEATED DEMONSTRATORS.

4. INSIDE THE MISSION, THE FOUR REPRESENTATIVES, WHO APPEARED TO BE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 17 YEARS OLD MET WITH AMBASSADOR LEONARD FOR ABOUT 30 MINUTES. THE ESSENTIALLY WANTED A MISSION REPRESENTATIVE TO CONVEY TO THE WHITE HOUSE THEIR OUTRAGE AT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S "APPARENT SHIFT IN ITS MIDEAST POLICY". THE DISCUSSED THE SALE OF BOMBERS TO EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA AND THE U.S. "ATTACK ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS". AMBASSADOR LEONARD LISTENED TO THE GROUP AND THEN STATED THE U.S. POSITION. THE GROUP WAS COURTEOUS AND FOLLOWING THEIR DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR LEONARD, THEY LEFT THE BUILDING PEACEFULLY.

5. THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE DISTRIBUTING THE FOLLOWING FLYER. QUOTE FEBRUARY 15, 1978
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
BETAR BURNS PROPOSED B-15 BOMBERS

MEMBERS OF BETAR, THE ZIONIST YOUTH MOVEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S HERUT PARTY, PROTESTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSED SALE OF B-5 AND B-15 BOMBERS TO EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA. BETAR, AN ACTIVIST GROUP, BURNED A SYM-
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BOLIC MODEL OF THE PLANES IN FRONT OF THE U.S. MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS. THE GROUP THEN STAGED A SIT DOWN IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING.
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATIONS RECENT TURNABOUT IN MIDEAST POLICY IS SEEN AS A DIRECT THREAT TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY. BETAR OPPOSES ANY ACTION BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL PUT DEADLY WEAPONS INTO THE HANDS OF NATIONS WHICH STILL SHOW HOSTILITY TOWARDS THE JEWISH STATE. JUST YESTERDAY, A TERRORIST BOMB KILLED TWO PEOPLE AND WOUNDED 48 OTHERS ABOARD A CROWDED JERUSALEM BUS. BETAR SEES MODERN WAR PLANES IN THE HANDS OF THE HOSTILE ARAB GOVERNMENTS AS HAVING THE SAME DEADLY EFFECTS. LIKE BEGIN, WE CALL UPON CARTER TO RECONSIDER HIS LATEST MIDEAST POLICY SHIFT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT JUDY AT 697-8450. UNQUOTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN00541
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780071-0771
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780250/aaaabqfr.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 19cff2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3582058
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BETAR GROUP DEMONSTRATION AT USUN
TAGS: PINS, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/19cff2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014